

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANAGU 03751 142133Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
HA-05 /073 W
-----091658 150619Z /21

R 141945Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7437
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 3751

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, NU
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH LUIS PALLAIS DEBAYLE

1. AMB AND DCM LUNCHEDED WITH CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES VICE
PRESIDENT LUIS PALLAIS DEBAYLE AUG. 11. PALLAIS IS ALSO
PRESIDENT SOMOZA'S COUSIN AND LIBERAL PARTY SPOKESMAN AS
WELL AS MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE SOMOZA DAILY NEWSPAPER
NOVEDADES. PALLAIS REITERATED VIEWS STATED IN NOVEDADES
ON THE TWO PASTORAL LETTERS (MANAGUA 3599 AND 3644)
THAT THEY IN EFFECT SUPPORTED THE POLITICAL DIALOGUE
WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN TRYING TO PROMOTE OVER THE
LAST MONTHS. HE THOUGHT, THEREFORE, THAT THE PASTORAL
LETTERS WERE POSITIVE BUT THAT THEY DID CONSTITUTE SOME
INCURSION INTO NICARAGUAN SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE
(NOTE: THIS LINE HAS BEEN TAKEN BY SEVERAL MAJOR LIBERAL
PARTY DISTRICT BODIES IN THE PAST FEW DAYS AND PUBLICIZED
IN NOVEDADES). PALLAIS EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT SOMOZA'S
LIBERAL PARTY HAD TO BEGIN NOW TO WORK AT THE GRASS ROOTS
LEVEL IN ANTICIPATION OF 1981 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

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2. IN RESPONSE TO AMB'S QUESTION ON CHURCH'S PROPOSAL
FOR A "NATIONAL GOVERNMENT," PALLAIS SAID THAT TO LEGALLY
CONSTITUTE SUCH A GOVERNMENT UNDER THE NICARAGUAN CONSTI-
TUTION, WOULD TAKE ABOUT ONE YEAR, AS IT WOULD REQUIRE
TWO SESSIONS OF CONGRESS TO MIDIFY THE CONSTITUTION.
AMB NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT COULD RESIGN AND APPOINT A
MIXED CABINET INCLUDING OPPOSITION PARTY REPRESENTATIVES,

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EXISTING CONSTITUTION. PALLAIS SAID THAT SUCH A MOVE COULD BE POSSIBLE UNDER THE CONSTITUTION, BUT REMAINED NON-COMMITTAL AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A MOVE BY SOMOZA. HE CONSIDERED THAT SOMOZA WOULD NOT YIELD IF THERE WAS NOT A POLITICAL AGREEMENT THAT WOULD GUARANTEE A PEACEFUL DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE INITIATIVE OF A CONSERVATIVE PARTY FACTION ON REMOVAL OF THE PRESIDENT, HIS SON (TACHITO) AND BROTHER (FEN. JOSE R.) FROM "POSITIONS OF COMMAND" IN THE GUARDIA NACIONAL, (MANAGUA 3695) PALLAIS SAID THAT THIS PROPOSAL WAS MORE DANGEROUS THAN WHAT ONE MIGHT BELIEVE. BY AGREEING TO SUCH A PROPOSITION, SOMOZA WOULD BE SIGNALLING TO THE GUARDIA THAT HE WAS WILLING TO SACRIFICE ITS LOYALTY IN ORDER TO PROTECT HIS OWN (FINANCIAL) INTERESTS. IF THE GUARDIA LEADERSHIP AT THE COLONEL LEVEL AND ABOVE THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS HAPPENING, IT WAS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT IT WOULD CONDUCT A COUP D'ETAT, AND INSTALL A JUNTA OF SENIOR GUARDIA OFFICERS IN PLACE OF SOMOZA. THE PRESIDENT, HE STRESSED, WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING THAT COULD BE INTERPRETED BY THE GUARDIA AS A LESSENING OF HIS LOYALTY TO IT. AMB OPINED THAT IN LIGHT OF LATIN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, CONTINUED SOMOZA FAMILY CONTROL OF THE GN WAS AN ANACHRONISM. PALLAIS AGREED.

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4. PALLAIS STATED THAT HE WAS GOING TO APPROACH THE ARCHBISHOP AND OTHER OPPOSITION LEADERS TO FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT THEIR PLANS WERE AND OPINED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT NOT TO PERMIT THE CHURCH INITIATIVE TO DIE. AMB EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT A POLITICAL COMPROMISE COULD BE WORKED OUT TO ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
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Litigation History:
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TAGS: PINT, PINS, NU, (PALLAIS DEBAYLE, LUIS)
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